

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

radially contacting a guide member for the plunger and the cup-shaped housing part for closing the magnetic circuit;

axially placing a sealing sleeve surrounding the guide member onto the cup-shaped housing part and connecting the sleeve to the housing part.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are in the application.

Of these claims, claims 10-12 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krimmer et al. in view over Hosoya et al., are respectfully requested.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the subject matter of claims 4 and 5 has been included in claim 1. In addition, the feature of claim 7 according to which the end of the plunger projecting from the guide member is a ball has been included in claim 7.

Accordingly, since all of the features introduced into claim 1 were previously claimed, it is submitted that no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 as amended is patentably distinct over the art of record.

Specifically, claim 1 as amended recites the feature of original claim 4 in accordance to which a sleeve is provided which is axially welded onto a rim area of the cup-shaped housing part. This configuration makes it unnecessary to provide O-rings which are necessary in the solenoid valve of the reference to Krimmer et al. If the magnet is manufactured by injection molding, these O-rings become too hot and are deformed. The deformed O-rings are not capable of sealing the unit in an optimum manner.

In accordance with the present invention as claimed, the welding sleeve is completely tight.

Also important is the fact that it is the ring area 13 to which the sleeve 16 is welded. This feature means that a magnetic material is welded to a non-magnetic material. Such a

connection cannot be found in any of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Another distinguishing feature of the present invention as claimed over the reference to Krimmer et al. is the fact that the reference to Krimmer et al. is directed to a solenoid valve. The ball 9 of the reference which is the valve closing body is in fact the valve ball which interacts with a valve seat.

The present invention, on the other hand, is only directed to a solenoid arrangement which can be used in many types of applications. The arrangement is not a valve. As discussed in the first paragraph on page 3 of the present application, the arrangement of the invention is typically used in motor vehicles, for example, for a camshaft control. In other words, the ball 9 of the present invention is always in contact with the rapidly rotating camshaft of an engine. The ball merely has the purpose of preventing a premature wear of the plunger 7 which is usually of brass.

Accordingly, since both references relied on by the Examiner do not show the welded connection of a sleeve to a rim area of the cup-shaped housing part and also not the plunger provided at the end thereof with a ball, it is respectfully submitted that

the present invention as claimed in claim 1 is patentably distinct over the art of record.

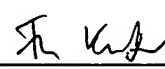
Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 1, 2005.

By:  Date: June 1, 2005
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